

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00679 041922Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----119428 041928Z /14
O 041839Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7755

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0679

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, ZA (KAUNDA, KENNETH)
SUBJ: SCHEDULING VISIT TO U.S.

FOR AF DICK MOOSE

REF: STATE 54746

1. I AM WORRIED BY REPORT OF DIFFICULTIES IN SCHEDULING KAUNDA'S STATE VISIT TO THE U.S. IN MAY. AS THE DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE ARE AWARE, WE ARE ENTERING A CRUCIAL PERIOD IN RHODESIA DEVELOPMENTS. KAUNDA IS FACED WITH ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT DECISIONS HE HAS EVER HAD TO MAKE. HE HAS TO DECIDE WHETHER TO THROW HIS FULL SUPPORT BEHIND ZAPU-PATRIOTIC FRONT MILITARY FORCES STATIONED IN ZAMBIA THEREBY INVITING SERIOUS RETALIATION FROM RHODESIA AND, ALMOST INEVITABLY, REZ IRING SIGNIFICANT COMMUNIST MILITARY SUPPORT NOT ONLY FOR THE TRAINING OF ZAPU BUT DEFENSE AGAINST RHODESIAN INCURSIONS. ALTERNATIVELY, HE CAN STEP BACK FROM THE BRINK BY ENCOURAGING NKOMO TO SEEK SOME KIND OF ACCOMMODATION WITH THE INTERNAL NATIONALISTS, EITHER BY MEANS OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL OR THE SALISBURY SETTLEMENT. THIS VISIT COULD IMPORTANTLY EFFECT WHICH PATH HE CHOOSES.

2. KAUNDA IS ALREADY VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT THE INVITATION FOR
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THE VISIT TO THE U.S. JUSTIFIABLY OR NOT, HE AND CHONA ARE BITTER ABOUT THE WAY LAST YEAR'S INVITATION WAS HANDLED--THE FIVE DAY INTERVAL BETWEEN THE YALE CEREMONY AND THE WHITE HOUSE VISIT AS WELL AS OUR FAILURE TO BE ABLE TO OFFER ANYTHING MORE THAN A 20 MINUTE OFFICE CALL UNTIL THE HAD CANCELLED. THEY BELIEVE THAT IT WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED.

3. AT THE MOMENT IT APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE KAUNDA MUCH SATISFACTION TO HIS DEMAND THAT WE REACTIVATE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS THOUGH SERIOUS AND CONTINUOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

4. WE HAVE NO DOUBT THEREFORE THAT THIS SENSITIVE AND EMOTIONAL MAN WILL VIEW ANY POSTPONEMENT OF THE VISIT AS PART OF A POLITICAL EFFORT TO DOWNGRADE HIS IMPORTANCE IN THE RHODESIAN SITUATION AND DIRECT OUR SUPPORT TO THE SALISBURY SETTLEMENT. WE KNOW THAT HE WILL BE ENCOURAGED IN THIS BY THE SOVIETS HERE WHO HAVE SHOWN CONSIDERABLE INTELLIGENCE INTEREST IN THE VISIT.

5. ANOTHER CONSIDERATION IS THAT OF THE DOMESTIC ELECTIONS IN ZAMBIA WHICH ARE DKS TO BE HELD LATER IN THE YEAR AND WHICH WILL REQUIRE KAUNDA'S FULL ENERGY AND ATTENTION IN VIEW OF HIS DIFFICULT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION.

6. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT TWO MONTHS FROM NOW THE MILITARY SITUATION WILL HAVE HEATED UP AND KAUNDA WILL HAVE MADE DECISIONS TO SEEK FURTHER COMMUNIST SUPPORT. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES HE COULD USE THE VISIT TO WASHINGTON AS A PLATFORM TO CRITICIZE THE U.S. (AND UK) FOR BETRAYING HIM IN THE RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT.

7. HOWEVER, WE THINK IT MORE LIKELY (PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF HIS NEED FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT) THAT THE PROSPECT OF A VISIT WILL INHIBIT HIM FROM ANY FINAL DECISION TO PERMIT A SIGNIFICANT CONFIDENTIAL

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QUANTITY OF CUBAN OF SOVIET PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT TO ENTER ZAMBIA AND WE BELIEVE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER COULD HAVE A VERY POWERFUL INFLUENCE ON THIS MOST IMPRESSIONABLE MAN. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THEREFORE THAT A VISIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE COULD PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN DISSUADING KAUNDA FROM A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH WOULD BRING FURTHER CUBAN AND SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN AN IMPORTANT AREA OF AFRICA.

8. WE THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO MAINTAIN THE SCHEDULE SUGGESTED BY THE ZAMBIANS FOR A VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN THE SECOND HALF OF MAY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUSAKA00679
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780099-0853
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803106/aaaadmvg.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6a4d7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 54746
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3116755
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SCHEDULING VISIT TO U.S. FOR AF DICK MOOSE
TAGS: OVIP, ZA, (KAUNDA, KENNETH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6a4d7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014